Rail route between Dindugil and Sabarimala

2625. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for a rail route between Dindugil and Sabarimala would be implemented;

(b) if so, the time limit for its implementation; and

(c) whether the Ministry would consider implementing the project from Dindigul to Theni, due to the growing commercial activities between Dindigul, Batalagondi, Periyakulam and Theni?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Food stalls for MNC's at Railway Stations

2626. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have taken a policy decision to allot food stalls at railway platforms to MNC's like McDonald's, Nirula, etc.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not aise.

Fast track strategy for Railways

2627. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry, has suggested a fast track strategy to revamp the functioning of the Railways through a series of measures;

(b) if so, the measures suggested by ASSOCHAM; and

(c) Government's response to these suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) A news item has appeared in the print media, where suggestions have been made by ASSOCHAM to revamp the functioning of Railways through a series of measures aimed at increasing internal generations, rationalizing fares and freight, scrapping of unviable projects, funding for accelerated completion of remunerative projects and speedy renewal and replacement work.

The suggestions have been noted by the Ministry of Railways. A number of measures have been adopted for increasing internal resource generation like freight marketing and tariff rationalisation, reduction in internal cross-subsidy in passenger fares, cost-cutting measures and right sizing of staff etc. In the last Railway Budget, a beginning has been made to rationalize the freight structure by removing certain anomalies that had crept up in the course of time. A beginning has also been made to rationalize passenger fare for proper tariff rebalancing by modifying the taper in the fare structure to remove the existing anomalies and making other marginal changes in respect of minimum fares and rationalizing the relativity of fares of various classes.

Improvement of the Railway system is a continuous process. Indian Railways has a regular machinery for identifying areas requiring improvement in functioning and accordingly measures are taken after establishing their feasibility.

Regular Station Master for Mainpuri

†2628. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN:
SHRI GHANSHYAM CHANDRA KHARWAR:
SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Station Master of Mainpuri Railway Station is responsible for the sorry state of affairs at the Station and does not make any effort for improvement there;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Station Master has not been appointed thereon regular basis since long, if so, the details in this regard;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.